

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1985
MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Number 141

January, 1926

TAXONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS

S. A. Rohwer, Entomologist, in Charge

H. C. Hockett, of the New York (Geneva) Experiment Station, is spending a few weeks in the Division of Insects studying Diptera belonging to the family Anthomyiidae.

Morgan Hebard, of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, called at the Division of Insects, January 30, to consult with Mr. Caudell.

J. C. Crawford, of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, recently spent about a week in the Division of Insects, examining types of bees, consulting with various specialists, and arranging for exchanges of material.

Kota Monzen, of the Imperial College of Agriculture and Forestry, Morioka, Japan, recently spent a few days in the Division of Insects studying types of gall-making cynipids. He was especially interested in a few gall-making cynipids from Japan, described years ago by the late W. A. Ashmead.

James B. Cronin, of the Japanese Beetle Laboratory, Riverton, N. J., is spending about three weeks in the Division of Insects, studying the collection of Tiphia and other scoliids and consulting with specialists in the taxonomy of these groups.

T. R. Chamberlin, of the U. S. Entomological Laboratory, Salt Lake City, Utah, spent the first two weeks of January in Washington, working on the collection of parasitic Hymenoptera in the Museum and consulting with A. B. Gahan and R. A. Cushman.

H. L. Viereck, of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, spent January 30 consulting with Mr. Gahan and Mr. Cushman.

Work undertaken on Biological Abstracts has recently been proceeding very rapidly. A number of conferences have been held with specialists in the Division of Insects, resulting in the selection of certain members of the Division and the Bureau of Entomology as section editors of various groups for taxonomic entomology. Dr. H. E. Ewing will be editor for the small orders of insects, and mites and ticks; A. N. Caudell for Orthoptera, Carl Heinrich for Microlepidoptera, S. A. Rohwer for Hymenoptera, and Dr. J. M. Aldrich for Diptera.

STORED-PRODUCT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

E. A. Back, Entomologist, in Charge

On January 15 C. K. Fisher addressed 200 persons gathered at the Farm Bureau Center at Arlington, Riverside County, Calif., on the control of bean weevils. Mr. Fisher's talk was well illustrated and was received with much appreciation.

Perez Simmons was elected an active member of the American Association of Economic Entomologists at the Kansas City meetings.

Dr. E. A. Back attended the winter meetings of the National Furniture Warehousemen's Association held January 18 to 22 in the Peabody Hotel at Memphis, Tenn. The American Warehousemen's Association voted at its December meeting, at the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., to discontinue its Household Goods Division. This action will result in a greatly enlarged National Furniture Warehousemen's Association.

Mrs. S. B. McDonald resumed her duties as artist on January 19, after a long absence on account of illness.

G. S. Oettle, of the General Manager's Office, South African Railroad Headquarters, Johannesburg, was a recent caller to discuss the problem of maize conservation in South Africa. The problem of protecting corn from weevil attack after it has been delivered at the local elevators along the railroads, and during shipment from these to the terminal elevators from whence it is shipped to European points, is a most serious one. Since this corn is handled a considerable number of times it is believed that the ethyl acetate-carbon tetrachloride mixture will prove a very serviceable aid. It can be used at elevators without entailing a fire hazard, and the frequent handling will tend to overcome the objection to the odor that this fumigant leaves on the grain.

A new book recently off the press is "Household Goods Warehousing in the United States," by C. A. Aspinwall, President of the Security Storage Warehouse Company of Washington, D. C., the printing having been financed by the American Warehousemen's Association. The portion of the book relating to Entomology consists of a reprint of Farmers' Bulletins 1346 and 1353, on carpet beetles and clothes moths, and, under the subject of cold storage, the data already published by Back and Cotton. The insect illustrations have been reproduced much better than those in Federal publications. The following extract from the introduction is of interest, as it helps one to understand why the household goods warehousemen's insect problems have increased so rapidly in recent years:

"Furniture or household goods warehousing is a branch of one of the oldest businesses in the world. As soon as there was trade there were warehouses. Joseph built them in Egypt, and back in the beginning of recorded history in Sumerian and Babylonian times there were warehouses.

"Yet the warehousing of household goods is so modern as to have its entire history spread out in the view of men still living . . . It is a creation in America of the past half century and its great expansion dates from the opening of the present century.

"The development of the household goods warehousing industry in the United States and Canada has no parallel elsewhere in the world.

"American household goods depositories are unsurpassed in security, convenience and equipment, and their number and size are a source of astonishment to visitors from other countries.

"This is partly and perhaps principally due to the rapid development of North America; the increase in wealth, the rapid growth of cities, and the restlessness of our population. It is also due in some part to the genius of the household goods warehousemen in increasing and perfecting their facilities, making it more and more safe, satisfactory and convenient to occasionally deposit all or part of the household furnishings in storage.

"Fifty years ago there was not in the North American continent a single fireproof warehouse for household goods. There were in fact few, if any, warehouses constructed especially for this purpose. Twenty-five years ago even there were less than a score of fireproof depositories, while today there are nearly 300 modern fireproof warehouses constructed especially for the storage of household effects, the largest having a cubic capacity of 6,500,000 feet, or approximately enough space in which to store the average furniture from 20,000 house rooms."

SOUTHERN FIELD-CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. L. Webb, Associate Entomologist, Acting in Charge

E. W. Laake, of the Dallas, Tex., Laboratory, visited Washington for several days in January.

F. S. Chamberlin, Quincy, Fla., attended the South Georgia Tobacco conference at Tifton, Ga., January 23, where tobacco insect control was discussed.

Dr. G. M. Armstrong, of the Florence, S. C., Station, spent a few days in Washington in the last week of January.

H. Bennett Johnston, of the Wellcome Laboratories, Khartum, Africa, Entomologist for the Sudan Government, visited the Tallulah Laboratory January 5 and 6, acquiring information on cotton insects and methods developed by the Department for their control.

Dr. V. V. Nikolsky, Chief of the Entomological Section, Moscow Tropical Institute, Moscow, Russia, visited the Delta Laboratory, Tallulah, La., January 16 to 19, and was highly pleased with his opportunity to study the work of the laboratory.

FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. C. Craighead, Entomologist, in Charge

William Middleton, of this office, gave an illustrated address on "Some Insects Attacking Shade Trees" at the Institute for Tree Workers held in New Haven, Conn., January 26, 1926.

Dr. Craighead attended a meeting of the Appalachian Forest Research Council at Richmond, Va., on January 5. This Council is composed of a group of representative men from educational institutions, State organizations, and lumbering concerns interested in forestry. They review the work of the forest station and suggest proposals for the lines of study that will be of particular benefit to the development of good forest practices. A resolution was passed and transmitted to Dr. Howard expressing their appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Bureau of Entomology during the past season.

Recently a number of men from the Forest Service experiment stations were on detail in Washington. This afforded an opportunity for numerous discussions of the insect problems in various regions.

Field work has been slack. Practically all the men have been at winter headquarters preparing reports on projects under way during the summer. J. M. Miller and J. C. Evenden attended the Forest Service investigative meetings in their respective districts and reported on cooperative work of the past summer.

JAPANESE BEETLE INVESTIGATIONS

Loren B. Smith, Entomologist, in Charge

B. R. Leach attended the meeting of the Greens Section, U. S. Golf Association, held in Chicago on January 8, and spoke on "A Method of Grub-proofing Turf."

L. B. Smith addressed a meeting of the Eastern Nurserymen's Association, held at Trenton, N. J., January 14.

A meeting of the Advisory Committee on Japanese Beetle Control was held at Philadelphia on January 26, for the purpose of discussing matters of policy and future plans on Japanese beetle control work. Those present were Dr. A. L. Quaintance, Bureau of Entomology, Washington, D. C., Hon. F. P. Willits, Secretary of Agriculture, Harrisburg, Pa., Hon. W. B. Duryee, Secretary of Agriculture, Trenton, N. J., Harry B. Weiss, Chief of Bureau of Statistics and Inspection, Trenton, Dr. T. J. Headlee, State Entomologist, New Brunswick, N. J., C. H. Hadley, Director, Bureau of Plant Industry, Harrisburg, Pa., L. B. Smith and C. W. Stockwell, Japanese Beetle Laboratory, Riverton, N. J.

TRUCK CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. E. Graf, Entomologist, in Charge

In the latter part of January N. F. Howard, in charge of the Mexican bean beetle laboratory at Columbus, Ohio, attended the National Cannery Convention at Louisville, Ky. He presented a paper on the Mexican bean beetle before the Green and Wax Bean Section of the National Cannery Association.

Rodney Cecil has been granted leave without pay to take up graduate work leading to a Master's Degree at the Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

B. L. Boyden, in charge of the Tampa, Fla., laboratory, visited Sanford, Fla., to start spraying operations against the celery leaf-tyer, in cooperation with the Florida State Plant Board and Experiment Station.

K. L. Cockerham, J. A. McLemore, W. M. Mingee, Troy Thompson, and F. A. Wright, all connected with the work of eradicating the sweet-potato weevil in Mississippi, attended the annual meeting of the Mississippi State Plant Board, held in the latter part of December at Mississippi A. & M. College. A considerable portion of the time was given to discussion of work relative to the eradication of the sweet-potato weevil.

F. P. Ansler, a former employee of the Mississippi State Plant Board, has been given a temporary appointment as Field Assistant, and is now stationed at Grand Bay, Ala., assisting S. C. Brummitt in clean-up work, and in scouting for the sweet-potato weevil in Mobile County. Later, Mr. Ansler will probably devote several weeks to work in Hancock County, Miss.

K. L. Cockerham, Biloxi, Miss., reports that several cold snaps which recently occurred in southern Mississippi will in all probability result in a general destruction of exposed vegetation and small potatoes left in the sweet-potato fields. As a result, judging from several years of observation, Mr. Cockerham believes that losses from the sweet-potato weevil will be light in 1926. It appears that the weevils suffer more from the destruction of over-wintering food than they do from the direct effect of the temperature upon themselves.

J. C. Elmore, of the Alhambra, Calif., laboratory, recently visited the Imperial Valley section of California, finding there damage to lettuce from cutworms and the alfalfa looper.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

W. H. Larrimer, Entomologist, in Charge

Geo. I. Reeves and T. R. Chamberlin, of the Salt Lake, Utah, station, visited Washington in the early part of January for consultation on introduction of parasites of the alfalfa weevil. Mr. Chamberlin spent some time reviewing the literature and studying the Museum collection relating to this problem.

Dr. W. J. Phillips and A. M. Vance, of the Charlottesville, Va., laboratory, were recent visitors at the Washington office.

L. H. Worthley visited the Washington office on January 9, on his return to Boston from the meetings at Kansas City. On his way east he also visited the Cleveland office of the corn borer investigations.

Dr. H. L. Dozier, State Entomologist of Delaware, interested in the *Anaphoidea* breeding work being conducted by A. F. Satterthwait, was a visitor at the Webster Groves laboratory on January 3.

C. C. Hill and H. D. Smith, of the Carlisle, Pa., laboratory, attended the meeting and dinner of the Entomological Society of Pennsylvania held in Harrisburg January 18.

H. N. Bartley, in charge of the Silver Creek, N. Y., corn borer laboratory, visited Arlington, Mass., on January 11, for consultation regarding the work in western New York for the season of 1926.

On January 20 and 21 a corn borer exhibit was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Foresters' and Tree Wardens' Association at Boston.

GIPSY MOTH AND BROWN-TAIL MOTH INVESTIGATIONS

A. F. Burgess, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

It is pleasant to announce that H. L. Blaisdell has recovered from an operation for appendicitis, and returned to duty.

A. F. Burgess, S. S. Crossman, and H. L. Blaisdell attended the New England Forestry Congress held at Springfield, Mass., on December 10 and 11, 1925. A conference was held with L. S. McLaine, Chief of the Division of Foreign Insect Suppression, Ottawa, Canada, and H. L. McIntyre, of the New York Conservation Commission.

C. W. Collins attended the meetings of the American Association of Economic Entomologists held at Kansas City, Mo., in the week of December 28, 1925.

In the last week of December A. F. Burgess spent several days in Washington, attending Agricultural Committee hearings.

January 20, 1926, At Boston, A. F. Burgess addressed a meeting of the Massachusetts Moth Superintendents and the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association on "The Present Gipsy Moth and Brown-tail Moth Situation." An exhibition of moth work was displayed at these meetings on January 20 and 21.

Shipments of Christmas trees and Christmas greenery from New England in November and December, 1925, were 12 to 14 per cent larger than the 1924 shipments. A large force of Federal inspectors was necessary to handle the work which had to be done between November 1 and December 15, inspecting approximately 1,740,000 spruce and balsam trees, ranging in length from 2 feet to 30 feet, 34,160 bales of spruce boughs, and 6,095 bundles of laurel. This material was moved in 1,033 carload lots, 802 partial carload lots, and 169 auto truck loads. In addition, over 200 lots of wreaths and mixed greens were inspected. The Christmas trees were distributed across the United States in 29 States, outside of New England, extending all the way to California.

H. Bennett Johnston, of Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratory, Khartum, Sudan, and J. G. Meyers, Second Entomologist, Wellington, New Zealand, were recent visitors at the Gipsy Moth Laboratory. Dr. Meyers is at present studying at the Bussey Institute, at Forest Hills, Boston, Mass.

Donald L. Parker, B. Sc., Massachusetts Agricultural College, was appointed Junior Entomologist November 2, 1925, and Samuel F. Potts, B. Sc., Mississippi A. and M. College, and M. Sc., University of Maryland, was given an appointment as Junior Entomologist, effective December 17, 1925.

BEE CULTURE INVESTIGATIONS

James I. Hambleton, Apiculturist, in Charge

Dr. A. P. Sturtevant, E. L. Sechrist, J. E. Eckert, and W. J. Nolan spoke before the Maryland Beekeepers' Association at Baltimore on January 6.

In January Jas. I. Hambleton spoke before beekeepers' meetings in Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Washington, Oregon, and California.

Dr. A. P. Sturtevant was one of the speakers at the Ontario Short Course for beekeepers held January 20 to 22, and at the Short Course given by Cornell University January 25 to 30.

W. J. Nolan was on the program of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association at its annual meeting, held January 20 to 21 at Harrisburg.

G. H. Gale, assistant editor of the American Bee Journal, was during January a visitor at the Bee Culture Laboratory, with which he was formerly connected.

FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. L. Quaintance, Associate Chief of Bureau, in Charge

Oliver I. Snapp, in charge of the Bureau's laboratory at Ft. Valley, Ga., writes as follows: "Dilution recommendations for lubricating-oil emulsions are usually based on the assumption that the stock emulsion contains approximately 66 2/3 per cent of oil. Many commercially manufactured lubricating-oil emulsions offered to Southern peach growers have been found to be low in oil content. Some of these have been as low as 48 per cent. The accumulation of steam during the process of manufacture is often responsible for the low oil content. If the usual dilution recommendations are applied to emulsions low in oil content an ineffective spray is often used. Entomologists interested in emulsions in other sections may care to look into this matter in an attempt to avoid the use of oil sprays too weak for effective scale control."

Miss Alice P. Macdougall, of Toronto University, recently spent two weeks studying aphids with Dr. Baker and Dr. Mason. She is especially interested in the aphids of British Columbia, and had with her a large collection taken by herself in that province. She has covered some interesting territory, and on one of her collecting trips went as far north as the Alaskan border. Many of her specimens prove to be of undescribed species.

G. F. Moznette, who was formerly in charge of the Bureau's laboratory at Miami, Fla., and who resigned from the service temporarily, has now been reinstated and placed in charge of pecan insect investigations, with headquarters at Thomasville, Ga.

Julian J. Culver, who has been assisting in the testing work of the Insecticide and Fungicide Board, has resigned from that service to accept a position with the American Cyanamid Company. He will carry on experimental work with calcium cyanide, with headquarters at Tampa, Fla.

LIBRARY

Mabel Colcord, Librarian

NEW BOOKS

Arrow, G. J.

... Coleoptera. Clavicornia. Erotylidae, Languriidae and Endomychidae. London, Taylor and Francis, 1925. 416 pp., illus. (Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma.)

Barbey, Auguste.

... Traité d'entomologie forestière à l'usage des sylviculteurs. . . 2. ed. rev. Paris, Berger-Levrault, 1925. 749 pp., illus., col. pl. Index bibliographique, pp. 723-728.

Bazin, G. A.

Observations sur les plantes et leur analogie avec les insectes... Strasbourg, J. R. Doulsseker, 1741. 134 pp., illus.

Bourcart, Emmanuel.

Insecticides... fungicides and weed killers... Ed. 2, rev. and enl.
by T. R. Burton. London, Scott, Greenwood & Son, 1925. 431 pp., illus.

Clark, A. H.

Animals of land and sea... New York, D. Van Nostrand and Company, 1925.
276 pp., illus. (Library of Modern Science.)

Goot, P. van der.

Levenswijze en bestrijding van den witten rijstboorder op Java...
Wageningen, Drukkerij H. Veenman & Zonen, 1925. 308 pp., pl. fold. map.
(Buitenzorg Instituut voor plantenziekten. Mededeelingen no. 66.)
"Litteratuur", pp. 275-276.

Imms, A. D.

A general textbook of entomology... London, Methuen & Co., Ltd., 1925.
695 pp. illus. "Literature" at ends of chapters.

La plaga de la langosta en Mexico. Vera Cruz, Publicado por el Edpartamento
de informacion y propaganda, 1925. 179 pp., fold. tab. At head of
title: Junta Nacional Directora de la Campana contra la Langosta.

Locy, W. A.

The growth of biology; zoology from Aristotle to Cuvier... N. Y., H.
Holt and Company, 1925. 481 pp., illus., incl. ports.

Lopez, Negra, C. R.

Gusanos parasitos del hombre y animales domesticos. Madrid, Calpe,
1924. 206 pp., illus.

Mexico. Comision cientifica exploradora de la plaga de la langosta en el
estado de Vera Cruz... Mexico, Talleres graficos de la nacion,
1925. 140 pp., illus., plates. (Mexico, Instituto de Higiene. Seccion
de Parasitologia. Monografias num. 3.)

National Rose Society

The enemies of the rose... New ed. by F. V. Theobald and John Ramsbottom.
with coloured plates by Miss Frances Banyard. Westminster, Courtney
Page, 1925. 165 pp., illus., col. pl.

Pellett, F. C.

Productive bee-keeping... ed. 3, rev. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott
Company, c. 1923. 302 pp., illus. (Lippincott's farm manuals, ed. by
K. C. Davis.)

Wolff, Max, and Krausse, Anton.

Die krankheiten der forleule und ihre prognostischen bedeutung fur die
praxis. Breslau, Heger-Verlag Wiln. Gottl. Korn, 1925. 102 pp.,
incl. pl. Literatur-verzeichnis, pp. 66-67.

Wright, W. G.

Statistical methods in forest investigative work. Ottawa, 1925.
36 pp., illus. (Canada. Dept. Interior. Forestry Branch Bul. 77.)

